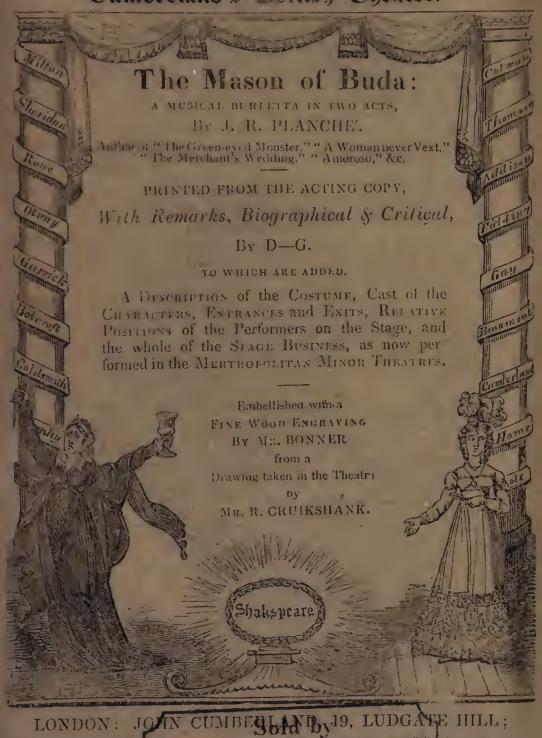
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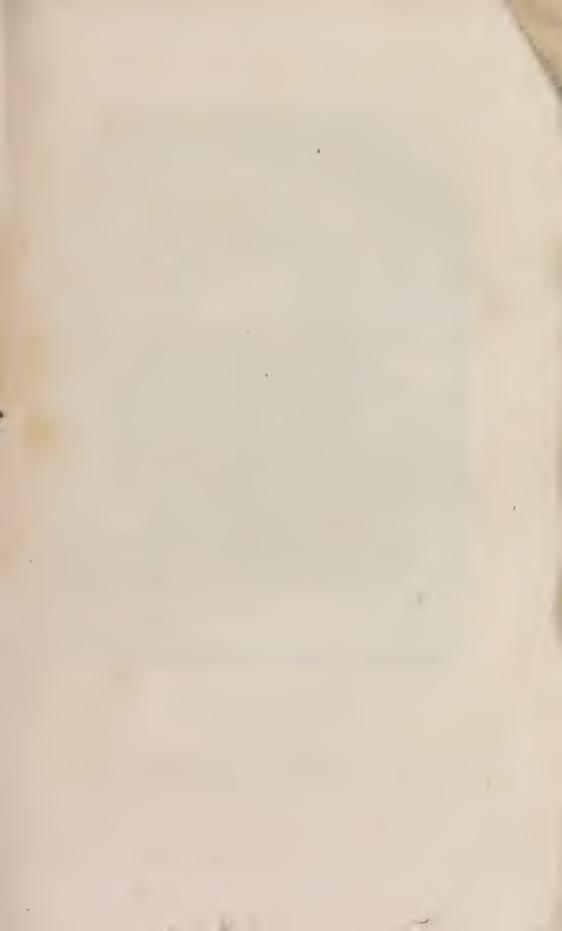
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G. W. Bonner, sc.

# The Mason of Buda.

#### DUET.

Johan. And is it you then, really? Peter. And do I see you here?

Act I. Scene 3.

# THE MASON OF BUDA:

AN OPERA,

En Two Acts,

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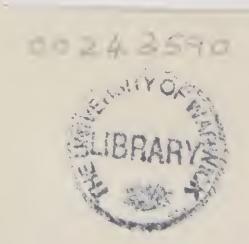
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#### REMARKS.

## The Mason of Buda.

ORDINARY occurrences claim little sympathy from the public. The most distressing incident in real life, without its due portion of fiction and romance, of distortion and high colouring, might serve " to point a moral," but would not "adorn a tale" intended for the stage. A widow, divested of her dramatic accompaniments, would produce the same effect as Mr. Puff's—with her six children, and eleven husbands killed in the war. And an Orphan might tell his tale of woe, and receive as much commisseration as Master Hempseedin Colman's comical farce of X. Y. Z. What reasonable, thinking man will pay his money to see a clown play the fool in the ordinary way, when folly, at every turn, confronts and stares him in the face for nothing? If a drunkard, will he be content with an every-day picture of his favourite vice?—Certainly not: he will expect to behold inebriety after the newest fashion, and in its most comical shape. If a humourist, his desire will be to encounter the very sublime of fun; if a rogue, to be instructed in some unconceived system of villany, that he may forthwith put into profitable practice. In short, his ambition is to hear and see something that he has never seen or heard refore; and the more marvellous it is, the better he is pleased with it. This feeling will be amply gratified by "The Mason of Buda." The distresses of lovers are common enough how they are parted, and how they are united, everybody knows, and nobody cares. But to chain a faithful couple to the wall of a grotto and fairly brick them up, is a catastrophe perfectly new and delightful. We are charmed with their despairing and musical soundswith their outstretched arms, and uplifted eyes-with the clanking of ehains, the noise of hammers, and a host of melodamatic etceteras, too numerous to mention. But our rapture knows no bounds at the sight of the bricks and mortar! an incident more peculiar to the Scribes than Pharisees. The story is intelligibly told; the music, instead of retarding, earries on the plot.-That which might be said is more pleasantly sung. An opera is a lyrical composition; in which the poetry is addressed to the mind, the music to the ear, and the scenery to the eye-this is Rousseau's definition, and a more correct one cannot be given.

The story is this:—A circumcised dog of a Turk, having purchased a Greck girl for his harem, cannot persuade her to listen to his addresses; because she has already listened to those of a Hungarian nobleman, one Count Emerich, which she finds infinitely more agreeable. He therefore, to gratify his offended pride and revenge, resolves to immolate the young couple; and, in the very place of their proposed assignation, the grotto, in the old monster's garden. In this he is assisted by Ibrahim, a slave, who joins in the plot with hearty good-will, the fair Greek having offered some rebuff to his amorous advances; and Riea, whose head only rests upon his shoulders on the condition that he betrays the lovers. In the execution

of this diabolical business, two handy workmen are indispensablea locksmith to rivet the chains, and a mason to build up the entrance of the grotto, so as to constitute it a living tomb. The piece opens with the marriage festival of Peter Stein, possibly a free, but positively an accepted mason, with Berka, sister to Johan Aspen, a simple locksmith. We have the usual accompaniments of a wedding, song, dance, and revelry; everybody is happy, save and except Madame Telky, a jealous scandalizing widow, who speaks well of nobody. The most substantial and attractive part of the entertainment is then announced—the suppor—to which it may be presumed all the guests do ample honours. The feast over, Peter-Peter, very good boy! is taking his walk home, like Lady Grace, soberly; his bride having been previously conducted to her future residence in due form, according to the custom of the country, by Johan and Madame Telky; whon he is suddenly accosted by two slaves belonging to the revengeful Turk, Abdallah, who enforce their master's commands with daggers drawn. Peter, therefore, finds it prudent to adopt Falstaff's notion, that the better part of valour is discretion. - He submits to their superior force, is muffled up in a cloak and blindfolded, and finally whirled, in a close carriage, through an hundred circuitous windings and turnings. to the infidel's garden, and in a few words told what he is to do, and promised his reward. He soon finds a companion, in the person of his simple brother-in-law, Johan; who has been kidnapped in the like manner. They, therefore (without seeming to recognise each other), commence their work in a duet. The victims are introduced —in the lover, Peter discovers the count; whom he had formerly saved from the hands of assassins, and to whose genciosity be (Peter) owes the possession of his bride. The interest becomes painful, but soon reaches its height, by the Count and Irma being rescued from their prisen of death, and joining in the finale. There are some comic scenes between Mr. and Mrs. Aspen and Madame Telky. Even the new-married lady discovers a little of the cloven foot, in her premature reproaches of Peter for not joining the supper-party so speedtly as she could wish. We may, however, part with Madame Telky upon good terms, since it is to her officious curiosity that Mesdames Berka and Aspen, from termagant wives, are not converted into disconsolate widows, like herself.

The Mason of Buda, with the exception of the last scene, which was written for recitative, for Sinclair and Miss Graddon, is taken from M. Scribc's opera, "Le Maçon." The French piece concludes by the rescued parties being produced before the mason's house. It is tounded on an incident said to have occurred in the Fauxbourg St. Antoine; a Turkish ambassador having walled up a young female and her lover, previous to his return to Turkey. Mr. Planché has judiciously changed the scene to Buda, where such an occurrence might with greater probability have taken place, than at Paris, from its vicinity to the Turkish frontiers. The change also afforded

more opportunities for dress and decoration.

The acting was good.—Wilkinson played the hen-pecked locksmith with his usual quiet, yet effective humour; and T. P. Cooke lost none of his reputation in honest Peter.

## Costume.

PRINCE PALATINE. - Scarlet and white Hungarian hussar ninform, richly embroidered with gold-Hessian boots, bound and tasseled with gold.

COUNT EMERICH. - Dark-green embroidered pelisse-coat, trimmed with sable-scarlet trousers, laced with gold-yellow bootseap of sable fur, with scarlet bag and gold tassel.

ABDALLAH .- Yellow satin Turkish robe, with loose hangingsleeves, trimmed with dark fur-under-dress of pink figured silkshawl sash-yellow boots-white muslin turban, with diamond ornament in front-cimeter and dagger.

IBRAHIM.—Dark maroon Turkish robe—white trousers—yellow boots-sash-white muslin turban: Second dress: Gray Hungarian pelisse coat, trimmed with black fur-black Hungarian eap.

PETER STEIN.—Loose great coat, with large flat silver buttons -red waisteoat, with ornamented braces, black and green, over itblack knee-breeches, trimmed with green-blue stockings - black shoes, and silver buckles--round hat, with two or three rows of different-eoloured ribands round the crown.

JOHAN ASPEN.-Brown coat, like Peter's, with silver buttons -blue waistcoat-black and crimson braces-dark purple breeches, trimined with cri nson-green stockings-shoes and buckles-threeeornered eoeked hat.

IRMA .- A modern Grecian costume, consisting of crimson velvet jacket, embroidered with gold-white and gold petticoat and tronsers-red morocco slippers. Second dress: Hungarian pelisse, of orange-coloured cloth, trimmed with sable, and eap to match-white petticoat-yellow boots.

BERKA.-Hungarian pelisse, of light-blue cloth, trimmed with white fur-orange petticoat-eap of blue cloth, and white fur, to

match pelisse-yellow boots.

WIDOW TELKY .- Dark-brown jacket, with tight sleeves-crimson petticoat, with particoloured apron-silk toque-yellow boots.

NAGGY ASPEN .- A similar dress, of other colours. USBECK and ALI .- Like Ibrahim's second dress.

RICA .- Greek slave's dress :- crimson velvet jacket, embroidered with gold-white tronsers-red velvet skull-eap, with gold trimmings and tassels.

SLAVES .- Hungarian white jacket and trousers-brown mautles, to imitate sheep-skins-black Hungarian caps.

SOLDIERS .- Hungarian hussar uniforms-soarlet jacket and pantatoons-green pelisse, trimmed with yellow or gold lace-Hessian boots-shakos, with the Austrian eagle in front, and black and yel low feathers.

MALE PEASANTS .- Similar to Peter Stein and Johan Aspen.

FEMALES .- Jackets, petticoats, and aprons, of various coloursbrown handkershiefs, tied round the head in the Austrian fashion.

## Tast of the Tharacters,

As performed at the Adelphi Theatre, Oct. 21, 1828.

Prince Palatine of Hungary	Mr. Hemmings.
Count Emerich, a Hungarian nobleman, and kinsman of the Prince	
Abdallah, a wealthy Turk, residing at Buda	
Peter Stein, a stone-mason	Mr. T. P. Cooke.
Johan Aspen, a locksmith	Mr. Wilkinson.
Ibrahim Usbeck Ali Rica Servants and Slaves of Abdallah Officer	Mr. G. Smith. Mr. Morris. Mr. Shaw. Mr. Saunders.
Officer	Mr. Philips.
Widow Telky, the proprietor of a pipe-shop in the Suburbs of Buda	Mrs. Daly.
Naggy Aspen, Johan's wife	Mrs. Gallott.
Berka, sister to Johan, and married to Peter Stein	Mrs. H. Hughes.
Irma, a Greek girl, bought for the Harem of Abdallah, but beloved by Count Emerick	Miss Graddon.
Bridesmaids	Miss Barnett. Miss Daly.

Male and Female Friends and Neighbours of Aspen and Stein. Musicians, Waiters, Slaves, Soldiers, &c.

SCENE-Buda and its Suburbs.

Time-About Twelve Hours.

### STAGE DIRECTIONS.

The Conductors of this work print no Plays but those which they have seen acted. The Stage Directions are given from their own personal observations, during the most recent performances.

#### EXITS and ENTRANCES.

R. means Right; L. Left; D. F. Door in Flat; R. D. Right Door; L. D. Left Door; S. E. Second Entrance; U. E. Upper Entrance; M. D. Middle Door

## RELATIVE POSITIONS.

R. means Right; L. Left; C. Centre; R. C. Right of Centre; L. C. Left of Centre.

R. RC. C. LC. L. \*\*\* The Reader is supposed to be on the Stage, facing the Audience.

## THE MASON OF BUDA.

#### ACT I.

SCENE I.—The Garden of a small Drinking-House, R. s. E., in the Suburbs of Buda—the Fortress, Bridge, and River in the distance.—Moonlight.—Garden-bench, L. S. E.

Enter Peter, Johan, Berka, and the Widow Telky, with their Friends and Neighbours, two-and-two, R. U. E., dancing and singing.—One of the Peasants bears a crown of flowers, fastened to a pole, above the heads of Berka and Peter, c.

#### CHORUS,

Happy day! In diversion

Be every moment pass'd!

Dance away—no desertion—

Keep it up to the last.

Peter. [To Berka.] Behold thee now, my own love,

Ber. My dear, my darling wife!
Now every care is flown, love—
I'm thine, I'm thine for life!

Chorus Happy day! In diversion
Be every moment pass'd!
Dance away—no desertion—

Dance away—no desertion— Keep it up to the last. Yes, yes; keep it up,—

At least, till we sup.

Madame Telky, your hand,—
Let us join the gay hand.

Ay, ay, trip along,—
And, friends, do ye hear?

I'll sing you the old song.

Bravo! A volunteer.

Johan.

Peter.

Peter. I know but one—it oft has cheered our labours; But I've no voice.

Johan. Pho, pho! mid friends and neighbours

What matters that: here, Peter, stand before us. We'll listen to the song, and dance to the chorus.

#### SONG .- PETER.

Up, brothers, up! see where the morning
Wakes to his daily toil the sun.
Like him, obey the rosy warning—
Our task, with his, at eve is done.
Though small be our gains, and hard our labours,
We envy not our wealthier neighbours,
But sing, with voice and conscience clear,

Courage still, boys.

Come what will, boys,

Honest hearts have naught to fear.

Chorus. [Dancing.] Courage still, boys.

Come what will, boys,

Come what will, boys, Honest hearts have naught to fear.

oy, brothers, joy, the day is over,—
With its light our labour ends;
Gayly each lass rejoins her lover—
Round the merry wine-cnp wends.
Dance, drink, and sing,—a fig for sorrow;
Time enough, when dawns to-morrow,
On to-morrow's cares to peer.
Courage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have rangely to fear.

Honest hearts have naught to fear. Chorus. [Dancing.] Courage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have naught to fear.

## Enter Waiter, from door, n. s. E.

Wai. Supper's on the table.

Johan. Come, now, away, away with you all.

[Exit Waiter at door, n. s. E.—Chorus repeated.

## Happy day, &c.

[Exeunt Peter and Berka at the door, n. s. r., followed by all but Widow Telky and Johan, dancing and singing.

Johan. Now, Madame Telky, won't you walk in to

supper?

Widow T. Not I, indeed! I have had quite enough of it: the noise and the heat this morning were enough to kill one; and now, what with new-comers, smoking dishes, and flaring lights, it must be a positive furnace. Then there's your brother-in-law, Mr. Peter Stein, sitting upon the same chair with his wife—whisper, whisper, whisper, whisper, whisper, whisper—oh fie! it's so vulgar.

Johan. Ah! the fact is, Madame Telky, that, keeping as you do, the largest pipe shop in Alt-Ofen, and being

intimate with all the tradespeople in the suburbs, you are a cut above us of the working-classes. I'm a poor locksmith, worth nothing at all, and I marry my sister, Berka, to an honest stone-mason; who is very little richer than myself. Love is all the wealth they have between 'em; and I see no reason why they should be ashamed of it.

Widow T. Well, bless me, Mr. Aspen, you needn't catch one up so! One would suppose you thought me

jealous of your sister's happiness.

Johan. I never thought any such thing; but, now you come to mention it, I can't say it's very improbable. Peter is an old flame of your's: you were mighty fond of him once on a time, as everybody knows, and what might have happened, if my sister hadn't come in the way, why nobody knows, Madame Telky.

Widow T. (R.C.) Will people never leave off scandalizing their neighbours? You know very well, Mr. Aspen, that I always spoke rather ill of Peter Stein than

otherwise.

Johan. (I. C.) Suppose you did—there was nothing particular in that, Madame Telky—you speak ill of every body: friends or foes, you make no difference.

Widow T. I do, do I? This is my reward for keeping my suspicions of this fine brother-in-law of your's a

secret.

Jahan. Suspicions! your suspicions! what suspicions,

Madame Telky?

Widow T. Why, since you force me to speak,—how did he become possessed of the fifty ducats, pray, that he bought and furnished the little cottage with, at the foot of the Blocksberg?—Can you tell me that?

Johan. No-it's no business of mine-I never ask'd

him, because I'm sure he came by them honestly.

Widow T. He didn't earn them, I know that, Mr. Aspen, for he confessed as much in my hearing; and who would have given him fifty ducats, I ask you?

Johan. What's the use of asking me now my sister's married,—it's too late, now, even if there should be any thing wrong; you should have spoken before, if——

Widow T. What, and make mischief?—No, sir, that is not my plan: whatever my enemies may say of me, they cannot accuse me of making mischief wilfully.

Johan. Well, I can only say, if you do it by accident, you are the most unfortunate woman of my acquaintance.

Enter Count Emerich, from the L. U.E., through the gate in the centre of the garden.

Count. [Aside, after looking around him.] Yes, I can sit here, unnoticed, till the hour arrives. How fast I must have ridden. [Looking at his watch.] Some wine, here!

[Seats himself on the bench, L. s. E.

[A Waiter crosses from L. to R. door, and exit.

Re-enter Peter, R. D., singing.

Comrage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have naught to fear.

Pet. Come, Johan,—come, Madame Telky, we have

half done supper.

Count. [Starting up.] How! Can it be possible—that air—that voice! [Approaching Peter, c.] My good friend, sure I should know you?

Peter. My benefactor!

Count. The preserver of my life! I thank fortune that we meet again.

Widow T. (L.) Peter know that fine gentleman!

Johan. (L. C.) Why, brother, what is all this about?

Count. Is he your kinsman?—Be proud of him! The

obligation I am under to him, is—

Pet. Nay, nay, sir; silence, I beseech you: I did but what any man would have done, in the same situation, and I have been richly paid for it. The purse you forced upon me contained fifty ducats—a fortune for a man like me—it has been the foundation of my happiness—it enabled me to ask the hand of her I loved more than life.

Johan. But what did you do, then, that

Count. Has he never told you? But for his fortunate arrival and brave conduct, I should have been murdered. Three weeks ago, wandering on the banks of the river by moonlight, I was attacked, near the old town, by ruffians—

Widow T. Near the old town? Count. Listen!

## SCENA .- COUNT.

Wand'ring in the lovely light
The light of the summer moon;
Thinking on the eyes more bright,
That would beam upon me soon.

The sudden grasp of ruffian hands
Scared my visions of delight;
And the gleam of naked brands
Flashed upon my startled sight,
Back I made the foremost reel!
But, by mimbers sorely press'd,
Soon had been the mirderer's steel
Sheathed within his victim's breast
When, in accents lond and clear,
This burden rang upon mine ear:
"Courage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have naught to fear."

'Twas he! this gallant stranger,—

'Twas he! this gallant stranger,—
He saw, he telt my danger;
He darted on the caitiff crew—
Terror-struck, the villains flew.
All reward he nobly spurned,
Bade me, laughingly, adien!
And, as he homeward turned,
And vanish'd from my view,
Gayly on mine ear again
Rose the well-remembered strain:—
"Courage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have naught to fear."

Johan. And the fifty ducats, then-

Count. I managed to slip my purse into his pocket, having vainly pressed his acceptance of it, and as fruit-lessly endeavoured to learn from him his name and address.

Johan. [To the Widow.] You hear, Madam Telky-

now what becomes of your fine suspicions?

Widow T. [Pretending not to hear the question.] I declare it will seem quite rude to stay from the company any longer.—I shall join the bride, Mr. Aspen.

[Crosses and exit into the house, R. S. E.

Johan. [Following her.] But, Madame Telky! what becomes, I say—Odds life! but you shall eat your words before you eat my supper, Madame Telky.

[ Exit after her into the house, R. S. E.

Count. [To Peter, with whom he has been conversing.] At length, then, I know my preserver. [Taking out his pocket-book.] "Peter Stein, mason," [Writing.] You shall soon hear from me.

Peter. I repeat, sir, I am already overpaid; I owe to you the possession of my darling Berka—I will accept

nothing more.

Count. [Crossing to L.] You shall not deny me; farewell for the present, but— [Crosses, L.]

Peter. How, sir, are you going? Nay, then, I will make one request-I will ask one boon at your hands.

Count. Speak, and quickly.

Peter. I'm half ashamed to ask it, too. You are a gentleman, and I only a poor labourer; but this, sir, is my wedding-day, and, if you would so far condescend as to honour our little supper, that is now on the table, with your presence, Berka and I would be so delighted-and even you, sir, would, I think, be gratified to witness the happiness you have created.

Count. My kind friend, it would indeed gratify me; but it happens most unfortunately, that I am compelled to refuse the first boon, simple as it is, which you ask

of me.

Peter. [Hurt and retiring.] I beg your pardon, sir-I was too bold.

Count. Nay, nay-for honour's sake, do not think me ungrateful, or that I am too proud to join your guests; no, indeed, you do me wrong: hear me-you are newly married-you adore your bride-you know what it is to love, and can therefore comprehend my situation. This evening, in a few moments, I am expected by one for whom I would sacrifice life itself.

Peter. Enough, enough! Away, sir,—may you be

happy as I am!

## Enter BERKA, R. S. E.

. er. Why, Peter, Peter, how can you stay from me so long? Every body is quite astonished, and I am very much offended.

Count. [Crossing to Berka.] Ah! this is your wife? Berka. Yes, sir, I am his wife; if I had not been, he would not have dared to use me so: he's beginning by times to neglect me—a faithless fellow!

Peter. Nay, nay, Berka-this is the gentleman of whom I told you, and to whom we are indebted for all

our happiness.

Berka. Oh! that's a different thing, then. I'm sure. sir, I beg your pardon.

Count. Nay, madam; 'tis I who should apologize, for detaining your excellent husband. Berka. Oh, sir! [Aside.] He called me madam-what

a nice gentleman! I was only ma'mselle yesterday; now I'm madame, Madame Stein; who wouldn't be married?

Count. Happy friend! you are in possession of your

priceless treasure, the beloved of your heart; well may you contemn my future favours. I can indeed add little to your felicity; but, at least, you must permit me to make my trifling present to the bride.

[Drawing a diamond ring from his finger, and, advancing to

Berka, offers to place it on her finger.

Berka. Oh, no, sir, not on that linger, if you please; I've got one there already, that Peter gave me this morning, sir. [He puts it on another finger.] Thank you kindly, sir. How it does sparkle; look, Peter [Crosses to Peter], even by this light; but [Whispering to Peter.] I love the other best, for all that.

Peter. Dear Berka! [Embraces Berka.

Count. Adieu, my friends! all happiness attend you!

If I live, we will meet again. [Exit Count, R. U. E.

Berka. What a kind gentleman! Where is he going,

Peter, in such a hurry?

Peter. To see his love, Berka—a secret meeting, and not without danger, I fear, by his manner, and a word or two that escaped him.

Berka. What's his name, Peter?

Peter. Faith! I never asked him; but he knows mine now, and I hope we shall soon see him again.

Berka. Let us join our friends. Peter. Stay,— they come to us.

Music.—Re-enter Johan, Madame Telky, and Guests, from the house, R.

Johan. Now then, now then—we are going to take the bride home in the usual procession. Sister, your hand—Madame Telky, you take the other.

Peter. Hold! hollo! leave one for me, if you please. Widow T. No, no, Mr. Stein, that's against all rule; you mustn't go with us.

Peter. What! not I?

Widow T. No, certainly; you know, well enough, it's not the custom.

Peter. Rot the custom!

Widow T. You must follow by and by.

Johan. Ay, ay. In the meantime, go and pay the bill, Peter—I'll settle with you to-morrow

Peter. Well, but-

Widow T. No buts, go and do as you're bid directly; we give the law to-day.

Johan Yes, yes-we give the law to-day, so no grum-

bling.—March!

[Johan takes Berka by one hand, Widow Telky takes her by the other—the Peasants, &c., form in procession, and execunt, singing the chorus "Happy Day," &c.—Peter entering the house sulkily, as if to pay the bill, n.s. e.

## SCENE II .- A Street in the Suburbs.

Enter Usbeck and Ali, R .- Music.

Usb. It is the command of Abdallah—we must obey our master.

Ali. But how find out two such workmen?

Usb. By a cautious inquiry, perhaps. Stay, here comes a solitary passenger—let us accost him.

Enter Peter, hastily, tying up his purse.—Ali crosses behind to c.—Music.

Peter. There's no satisfying waiters! Five florins for a poor fellow like me, I thought, was very handsome. This storm will blow off, after all. Now for home and Berka.

[Going towards R.]

Usb. (R.) Stop!

Peter. [Starting, and thrusting his purse into his pocket.—Aside.] Robbers! and I have no weapons. [Aloud.] What would you? [Putting himself on his guard.

Usb. We mean you no harm, friend! We would merely ask if you could tell us where to find a good

stone-mason and a handy locksmith.

Peter. Is that all? Why, then, you're not far off one of your men, I can tell you. I believe there are few in Buda can handle a chisel or a trowel better than your humble servant.

Usb. How fortunate! Would you like to earn a large

sum of money?

Peter. Egad! I think I should, indeed,—jump at it. Usb. Enough. Take this purse, as an earnest of our liberality.

[Turns up the stage, and beckons on Two Slaves, n., with a cloak.

Peter. A purse. [Aside.] Well, now, to look at the fellows, I'd have sworn they meant to have taken mine: there's no trusting appearances. [Aloud.] What am I to do for this?

Usb. Follow us. Peter. What, now?

Usb. Instantly.

Peter. Nay, nay, that'll never do; take your money back, gentlemen. I'll give you my name and address, and will be wherever you please to appoint, to-morrow,—ay, and bring a good locksmith with me. But no money should bribe me from my home to-night, so it's no use talking.

Usb. Peace! and follow us immediately.

Peter. But I tell you, I won't, I can't! Take back your money; find somebody else.

Usb. We have no time for that. Away!

[Seizing him by one arm. [Struggling.

Peter. Go to the devil!

Ali. Silence! and follow, or—

[Seizing him and showing a dagger—Usbeck showing one also. Peter. Hah! [Aside.] Daggers! What means this mystery? They are not robbers; yet, gracious powers, I am defenceless. Oh, Berka, Berka! and for thy sake

I dare not resist. [Aloud.] In pity's sake, gentlemen— Usb. Obey, and you're not only safe, but shall be handsomely rewarded; struggle again, and you die.

[Music.—They fling a cloak over him, and hurry him out, R.

ated in the Garden of Abdallah's house—the entrace from the Garden is in the centre of the Stage—a lamp is burning upon a small pedestal, and near it Irma is discovered, seated on an Ottoman, with a guitar.—Stage half dark.

## IRMA comes forward, c.

Irma. The storm that threatened has passed away: the moon is again unclouded; she goes down at midnight, and already touches the top of yonder pine. The hour of my deliverance draws nigh. Oh, Emerich, Emerich! hasten and snatch thy beloved from her bateful prison. I must strike my guitar, that the slaves of Abdallah may hear me: then, passing openly to my chamber, there will I await the moment to return, unperceived, and fly with my brave Hungarian.

## AIR-IRMA.

I am in thy power, thou proud pasha! Said the young Athenian maid; But my heart is a gallant Suliot's—Beware his vengeful blade!

Soon will its glittering terrors flash
Thy turban'd brow above,—
You may take the Greek girl's life away,
But you cannot quench her love.

The booming waves may o'er me roll;
I may shrivel in forked flame;
But at the stake or in the flood,
I will call on my hero's name,
And laugh to scorn the cruelty
My spirit soars above.
Then take the Greek girl's life away
For you cannot quench her love.

Yonder comes my surly gaoler, Ibrahim. He shall see me retire to my apartment.

Music.—Enter Ibrahim, through centre.—Irma passes him scornfully, and exit at R. U. E., through the centre of the Grotto.

Ibr. Woman!—But thy punishment is at hand. [Music.—Ibrahim returns to the entrance of the Grotto, and makes a sign to some one without.

Enter Abdallah, from L. U. E., through C.

Ibr. [Bowing.] My lord may approach.

Abd. [Advancing to L.] Have my commands been obeyed?

Ibr. The will of Abdallah is law to his faithful slave. Ali and Usbeck have returned with them they sought.

Abd. 'Tis well; the traitress shall suffer on the scene of her treason: she could not have selected a spot more favourable for my revenge. [Looking around him.] Did she imagine that, because we were in the land of infidels, she could brave the anger of Abdallah? Bitterly shall she acknowledge her error—whither has she gone?

Ibr. To her chamber, according to her plan; and will return at midnight to the grotto, where the Hungarian is to meet her, introduced by Rica, whose life is only

spared upon that condition.

Abd. My curses on the infidel! but my vengeance shall be complete.—Was it not enough to scorn my love, to repay with coldness and disdain the affection which had respected her silly scruples for fifteen weary moons, when it was in my power to have forced compliance; but must she, also, feed my hopes with feigned repentance, only to crush them with more cruelty! [Crosses to n.

Ibr. Let my lord be calm, the hour of vengeance is at

hand.

Abd. Thou sayest true; full terrible vengeance—her torments shall be lingering, as those she has wrought on me. I know I can trust thee, Ibrahim, with its execution—all is prepared for our departure—fleet horses are in waiting, to bear us over the frontier—I go from hence upon the instant-follow when 'tis done.

[Music. - Exit Abdallak, I. v. E., through c. Ibr. Yes, Abdallah, thou mayst trust me, for I minister to my own vengeance in working thine: the insults yon proud beauty hath heaped on me shall now be terribly atoned.

Goes to the entrance of the cavern, and clasps his hands three

times.

Enter Usbeck with a muntle and Hungarian cap, L. U. E., through c.

Usbeck, the cap and mantle, so-[Taking off his turban, and putting on the cap, and enveloping himself in the mantle.] Are the other slaves disguised?

Usb. They are.

Ibr. To work, then; we have no time to lose—bring in those fellows.

[Music.-Usbeck retires, and re-appears with Ali, leading Peter Stein, who is blindfolded, from L. U. E. through C.

Peter. Where the devil, now? Am I never to see the light again?

Ibr. Remove his bandage.

[ They take off the handkerchief, and exeunt, L. U. E., through c.

Peter. Where am I? Who are you?

Ibr. Questions are idle: do what you are commanded.

and you will not repent obedience.

Pet. That's as it may happen—this is a very suspicious beginning; from the time I have been rolling along in a close carriage, I must be far from Buda, and—

Ibr. Fear nothing, I tell you; obey orders, and you shall be safely conveyed back to the spot where you

were found.

Peter. Quick, then; tell me what I am to do, for my poor little wife must be in a fine fidget-confound it, who the devil would have thought this morning, that

1br. You see the entrance to this natural grotto-you must build it up with as little appearance of art as possible.

Pet. And where am I to find the tools and materials, pray?

Ibr. They shall be supplied to you.

Peter. Humph! I don't like the business-I tell you plainly it has a bad look, but I can't help myself; and, if anything is wrong, though I am the mason, remember you are the architect, my fine fellow.

Ibr. Ay, ay, I take the responsibility upon myself.

Re-enter Usbeck and All, with Jeras blindfolded, from L. U. E., through c.

Johan. But, gentlemen, good gentlemen, are you sure you won't hurt me?

Pet. [Aside, R.] As I live, 'tis Johan!

Ibr. Ha! you are a locksmith!

Johan. Yes, sir, unfortunately; but I can't help it: indeed, sir, it's my father's fault, -he would bring me up to it.

Ibr. Peace, fool! Remove his bandage—tremble not, there is no harm intended thee, provided thou art obedient. [Usbeck and Ali take off the handkerchief from Johan.

Johan. Obedient-lord, sir, I'm as tame as a pet lamb; only ask my wife, sir,—I do every thing she bids me, as far as lies in my power, sir.

Ibr. Silence! [To Ali.] Produce those chains and

padlocks.

Johan. (L.) Chains and padlocks! O dear! [Ali goes out, L. S. E., and returns with the chains-he lets them fall near Johan, who, looking fearfully round, catches a glimpse of Peter.] Oh, murder! [Peter makes signs to Johan, to take no notice.] Oh, oh, oh!

Ibr. What ails thee, now?

Johan. The-the chains-the chains, sir; they-Ibr. Well, they are not for thee.

Johan. No, sir, no; but he dropped 'em upon my toes, sir, and I've got such a corn, I-oh dear, oh dear!

Ibr. [Sternly.] To your work, and make less noise, or

I may drop some on your legs and arms, that may not so easily be shaken off again.

Johan. Y-y-yes.

[Music.-At a sign from Ibrahim, tools are given to Peter and Johan .- Enter two Slaves, drawing in a large stone on a low wooden carriage, which they place near R. S. E .- An anvil is placed near L. S. E., for Johan .- Exeunt all but Peter and Johan .- Ibrahim occasionally appears and disappears through the centre of the Grotto, as he paces at the back in the garden, watching Peter, who is working at the stone, R., and Johan, who is riveting the chains at the anvil, L.

# DUET-Peter, R., and Johan, L., working with their faces from each other.

Both.

Work away-No delay;

'Twill be our safest plan To despatch as we may, And to earn whate'er we can.

> Work away-No delay, &c.

Johan. And is it you then, really? [Looking round.

Peter. And do I see you here?

[Looking round cautiously

Johan. There's some plot going forward.

Peter. Alas! so I fear.
Johan. I tremble!
Peter. I see it.
Johan. Weil, but listen.
Peter. Then speak low.

Peter. Then speak low Who are they? Peter. I can't tell you. Johan. Where are we? I don't know.

[Ibrahim appears at the entrance of the grotto.

Both. Work away—No delay, &c.

[Ibrahim disappears—they approach each other, and whisper quickly.

Peter. I had nearly reached home— Johan. I had just left your house— When upon me two men—

Johan. Wrapped in mantles, came, souse.

They asked if a mason-Peter. If a locksmith I knew. Johan. I told them the truth. Peter. Curse it, so did I, to! Johan. In a coach— Peter. I was crammed-Johan. Muffled up! Peter. And blindfold? Johan. Even so Peter. So was I. Johan.

Peter. Odd enough!

Johan. But behold! [Ibrahim appears.]

[Running, and resuming their work.

Both. Work away—
No delay, &c. [Ibrahim disappers.]

Johan.

Peter.

Observe, but say naught;

For no good, I fear me,

Have we been hither brought. Johan. In this alarming case,

To act, how were it best?

Peter. Why, as honest men should,—
And to heaven leave the rest.

Enter Ibrahim into the Grotto, with Usbeck, Ali, and the two Slaves, from L. U. E., through centre.

Peter & }
Johan.

Work away—No delay, &c.

Ibr. Time flies. How proceed you? Johan. The chains are made fast.

Peter. I'm ready to place the first stone.

[The two Slaves remove the stone used by Peter Stein, through centre.

Ibr. Then the signal may be given—it's already past the hour. [To Usbeck.] Let Rica admit the stranger; but keep your eye upon him unperceived. [Exit Usbeck and Ali, through centre.] You two follow me.

Peter. [Joyfully.] Are we to go home? Ibr. Not yet—in less than an hour.

Peter. An hour, still?

Ibr. Silence, and follow!

[Music.—Exit Ibrahim, followed by Peter and Johan, through centre.—Ibrahim extinguishes the lamp, and the grotto becomes dark.

Enter RICA, cautiously, at the iron door, L., with the key, followed by Count Emerica.

Count. How long you have detained me! Irma must be on the rack!

Rica (c.) It was not to be avoided.—Abdallah has but just left the house.

Count. He is gone to Presburg, you say, and returns to-morrow?

Rica. Ay!

Count. Hasten, then, to Irma. - You tremble!

Rica. Have I not cause? My head would pay the for-

feit of this rash act, were it discovered.

Count. True, true, good Rica; but you will fly with us.—And here, here is a purse of gold, an earnest of my future bounty.

Rica. [Agitated, crossing to L.] No, no, no! put it up. [Aside.] I cannot take his gold at the moment I am de-

stroying him.

Count. Good fellow, refuse it not—I am rich, and thy services would be cheaply bought at fifty times its value.

Rica. I go to summon Irma?

[Rushes out through centre, to R. U. E. Count. His unusual agitation alarms me! The plan

is of his own arranging—has some unforeseen obstacle arisen, or—I know not how it is, but a presentiment of evil has weighed upon my heart all day—psha! let the near prospect of long-looked-for bliss banish the idle fear!

#### AIR .- COUNT.

My Irma comes—in beauty's pride
She comes—my tender, trusting bride!
Her raven hair and starry eyes
Like her own southern midnight skies.
My Irma comes—sweet as the gale
That summer knows in Tempe's vale;
When evening blends in one rich sigh
The thousand flowers of Thessaly.
My Irma comes—away with fear,—
What can be ill, when she is near?
My heart in that brief sentence sums
All blessings up—my Irma comes!

Enter IRMA, in a Hungarian dress, from R. U. E., through centre.

Irma. My Emerich, I feared thou hadst deserted me! Count. Dearest Irma, I was at my post to the moment! and feared, from the delay, that our project was discovered.—There can surely be no doubt of Rica's truth?

Irma. No, no, no! he is himself too deeply implicated: see, he has procured me this dress of your own country, the better to escape notice in our flight.

Count. Where is he now?—he goes with us?

Irma. He will be here upon the instant. He charged me to await his coming.

Count. Irma, I like it not; we have lost much pre-

cious time already.

Irma. Oh, fear him not; remember, he has been of my counsel ever since that happy day when our eyes first met, at Presburg—when, mourning my sad lot in the high-walled garden of my prison, my song of sorrow reached your ears; and, climbing the tall linden that overlooked the spot, you spoke of love and liberty.

Count. Love and liberty! Alas! Irma, this delay threats both with ruin!—I will await the slave no longer! Hasten, Irma, this iron door is open, and leads down, through the rock, to the river's bank.—Let us

away!

[Music.—As they approach the iron door, L. Rica rushes in wildly through centre, fram R. U. E., and flings himself before them.

Kneels.

Rica Unfortunates! one step that way, and you are lost!—I have betrayed you!

Count. [Half draws his sword.] Ah!

Rica. Strike! my life must answer for it, either way! but remorse has driven me to brave the vengeance of Abdallah, and I may save you yet -- Armed slaves have hastened at my signal, with Usbeck at their head, to intercept you, as you issue from that path; but, follow me—in the garden is a spot where you may lie concealed till morning, when, if I live, you shall be rescued.— Follow!

[Music.—They hesitate—Rica hurries towards the garden, waving them to follow-a shot is fired, L. U. E., and Rica falls, mortally wounded-some Slaves rush forward, followed by Ibrahim and Ali, at the same moment, from centre.—Usbeck enters at the iron door, with other Slaves with torches and armed, who seize Irma and the Count, after a struggle with the latter, in which his sword is broken.

Ibr. [Replacing his discharged pistol.] Bear hence that double traitor! [Rica is carried out.] Forward with the workmen. [Slaves bring forward a board with mortar on it and a trowel, and place it near R. S. E., for Peter .-Peter and Johan are forced in from centre.] Now despatch -you know your duties-the first who hesitates, dies.

The Slaves compel Johan to rivet the chains on the Count, who is held by two Slaves, while fastened to the wall, L., and Irma, who is held by two Slaves while fastened to the wall, R.

#### FINALE.

Tount. Ruffians! unhand her! On me wreck your rage! Peter. [Aside and starting.] Oh, herror! 'tis he-'tis my friend! To your work on the instant!

[Peter commences building up the entrance assisted by Slaves; Ali standing beside him with a cocked pistol.

Your pangs to assnage [Ironically to Count and Irma. Ibr. On your humblest of servants depend. Our master is 10th such foud lovers to part, So here you together may dwell

Secure from intrusion .- Nay, madam, why start? Love, sure, can illumine the dreariest cell?

Irma. Monster! immnre us not alive!

To instant death, oh, change our doom! Count. In vain you kneel, in vain you strive,-Ibr. This grotto is your living tomb.

Mason, despatch l

Peter. Ay, ay; I hear. Count & 7

Despair! despair! no friend is near! s. ma. \$

Peter.

Peter.

"Courage still, boys, [Singing at his work Come what will, boys,

Houest hearts have naught to fear."

Count. [Aside.] Ha! can it be! Ibr. [To Peter.] Silence! or bring

Destruction on your head!
Pho! don't tell me!
I can't work if I don't sing.

Will you take the trowel instead?

Ibr. No more! complete your task. [To Usbeck and the rest. Away!

[Ibrahim und the Slaves, who have remained inside the grotto, prepare to depart by the iron door, L., with Johan, whom they have again blindfolded.

Irma. For mercy's sake, barbarian, stay!
Count. Insulted heaven our cry will hear!

[Exeunt all but Count and Irma, at the iron door, L., which hey lock and bur after them.

[Peter, who is placing the last stone, sings without.

Courage still, boys,—
Come what will, boys,
Honest hearts have naught to fear.

[The grotto is quite dark—the act-drop fulls on the Count, L., and Irma, R., who remain chained to the walls.

END OF ACT L

#### ACT II.

SCENE I.—Exterior of Peter's Cottage at the foot of the Blocksberg.—Daybreak.

Enter Berka, from the Cottage, L. D. F.

Ber. Day is breaking, I vow! and no Peter yet—what can have become of him? If he don't come soon, I shall go distracted!—Can he have deserted, abandoned me—me, his dear little Berka; whom he has so often vowed he loved better than life! I've sat crying these five hours, afraid to stir, lest he should arrive in the meantime; but I can bear it no longer—I'll go this moment and knock up my brother, Johan, and his wife, and ask them what I shall do.

Enter NAGGY ASPEN, R.

Nag. Madame Stein! Madame Stein!

Ber. Oh, my dear sister-in law, I was just coming to you! where's Johan, I want him immediately?

Nag. Want him, the villain, so do I! he hasn't been home all night—he shall pay for this, I promise him.

Ber. Eh! what! Johan not been home either?

Nag. Either! why, what do you mean?

Ber. Oh, my dear Naggy, I'm a miserable little wo-

man! Peter is either dead or run away.

Nag. Peter, too! oh, the wretches! they're not dead—no, no, not they—they have gone gallivanting somewhere together: but, if I don't teach my husband how to stay out all night—

Ber. Oh dear! oh dear! was ever anything so terrible? I think as you do, Naggy, nothing could have happened to him the way he had to come, without my hearing of it—and it's very shameful of him, so it is!

[Sobbing.

#### AIR-BERKA.

What shall I do I oh, dear! Sure never was known such sinning.— Well-a-day I who can pretend To say how the wretch will end, When only see here-oh, dear l This is the way he's beginning. Yesterday morning he protested, ? He loved me better than his life; And, of all roving thoughts divested, Nothing should lure him from his wife. Though all day long to work attending, Each eve should see him homeward wending. Yet even the first, -oh, dear! Sure, never was known such sinning; Well-a-day I who can pretend To guess how the wretch will end, When only see here-oh, dear l This is the way he's beginning

Nag. Hark! there's somebody coming! perhaps it's he—no, no; as I live, it's that nasty, sneering, mischief-

making Widow Telky.

Ber. Oh, don't let her see how vexed we are! I'll say Peter's gone out, and—and that I'm going out—and I will go out, too, and drown myself, if I can't find him!

## Enter WIDOW TELKY, R.

Widow T. [Speaks as she enters.] Madame Stein! [Aside.] Madame Aspen here, too! that's delightful! [Crosses to centre.] Good morning to you, ladies both; why, you are stirring betimes, as well as myself—but where are your husbands, pray, if I may be so bold?

Ber. Our husbands, madam?-They are gone out on

husiness, madam, for the day.

Widow T. Indeed! dear me! well, now, only to think what scandalous people there are in the world-do you know that it is confidently whispered in the neighbourhood that, so far from having gone out this moruing, they have not been at home all night.

Ber. [Aside.] The spiteful thing!

Nag. [Aside.] I could tear her eyes out!

Widow T. But I beg your pardon, I'm afraid I nave hurt your feelings-I meant no offence, indeed.

Ber. Oh, madam, don't mention it, I beg-you can't

offend me, madam. [Aside.] I'm in a fever.

Widow T. But I see you are a little nettled, ladies, and well you may be; for to have such husbands as yours, is certainly very provoking.

Ber. It's much more provoking not to get a husband

at all.

Nag. Yes, particularly when some people try so hard for one!

Widow T. Impertinence!

Ber. ) But I beg your pardon, indeed-1'm afraid & I've hurt your feelings-indeed we meant no

Nug. \ offence.

Widow T. Well, well, come, ladies, don't let us quarrel; you have been shamefully used .- I know all about it-much more than you know yourselves: you only suspect the infidelity of your husbands, I can prove it.

Ber. You can—you can?

Widow T. I can; but, sooner than make mischief, I would be dumb for ever: they will be home soon, I have no doubt, and, I dare say, with a plausible story; so you'd better take it for granted, my dear friends, for the truth would only distress you.

Nag. The truth—the truth—I insist on knowing the

truth.

Ber. So do I.

Widow T. Well, then, if you compel me to speak (for, mind, I do it most unwillingly), I will reveal their disgraceful conduct. Come with me, poor, deceived, unhappy creatures, come to my house, where we shall not be interrupted, and you shall hear all about it-I'd never forgive them, if I were you.

Nag. He shall go on his knees to me first, a villain.

Ber. Oh, dear, oh, dear! who would have believed this yesterday? [Exeunt Naggy, Berka, and the Widow, L.

Music.—Enter Peter Stein hastily, and in great confusion.

Peter. I am bewildered—I know not what to do, or what to think. [Running to his door in f. l., and knocking.] Berka, dear Berka! no answer. [Music.—Bursts open the door, and returning.] Not there! She is gone! I shall never see her more! Oh, cruel fate! my benefactor and his beloved doomed to the most dreadful of deaths, and I have forfeited my own happiness, yet am unable, by the sacrifice, to save them. Ah, Johan!

## Enter JOHAN hastily, L. S. E.

Welcome! now, what news? You have been to the police? Johan. Yes, to the office.

Peter. Well, you have made your deposition.

Johan. No!

Peter. No, 'sdeath! what do you mean?

Johan. Why, you see, just as I reached the door, I was struck on a sudden—

Peter. Ah! by one of the villains?

Johan. No, by a reflection.

Peter. Psha! what reflection? Does it throw any light on the matter?

Johan. A great deal.

Peter. Speak, then—out with it.

Johan. Why, look ye, Peter, it is pretty plain, from the capital carriage in which I have been riding—for, though I was blindfolded, I could tell by the motion that it was no common affair—you know, my father was a coachmaker, and, though I'm only a locksmith, I flatter myself that—

Peter. Confound it, go on.

Johan. Well, I am going on.—I say, it's quite clear, from the circumstance of the heavy purses of gold we have received, and from the number of servants and people we saw, and, indeed, from every thing concerning the business—I say it's quite clear that—

Peter. That what? That what?

Johan. Why, that some very rich and powerful person is at the bottom of it all.

Peter. Well, of course; and therefore-

Johan. And, therefore, the less we meddle with the matter, the better.

Peter. How! and for this cowardly reason, you have

neglected informing the police?

Johan. To be sure.

Peter. And do you think I will tainely abandon the

wretched pair to their horrible fate?

Johan. Poo! poo! don't you make yourself uneasy about them; they are people of consequence, too, no doubt.

Peter. And what then?

Johan. Why, your great folks always manage to get out of a scrape, somehow or another—it's only us poor devils who stick in the mud.—They'll do very well, you may depend on it.

Peter. Fool! coward! dolt!

Johan. Besides, I took good care not to rivet the chains too fast—a good pull would break them from the staples.

Peter. But how break through the iron door, or the flinty rock? But why do I lose an instant—let me hasten to the police, and—

Johan. Stay, stay! don't be so rash—there is yet ano-

Johan. Stay, stay! don't be so rash—there is yet another reason for caution; the last thing one of these black-looking devils said to me when, taking off my bandage, he left me in the same place from whence he had brought me, was, "Breathe not a syllable respecting what you have seen or heard, or we shall meet again."

Peter. So they threatened me; but I defy them, I——Johan. Stay, stay! there's another thing I hav'nt told you, and which added to my reasons for not entering the office.

Peter. Speak, and quickly, then.

Johan. Why, then, I am pretty sure that, as I turned the corner of the street, one of those terrible black devils passed close to my elbow.

Peter. And you did not seize him! You did not drag

him before the police?

Johan. I! oh, lord bless you, no! On the contrary, I

walked the other way as fast as ever I could.

Peter. Distraction! oh, that I had been there, Johan. [Fiercely.] You are my brother-in-law, the brother of my adored Berka.—The wife this dreadful night has, perhaps, lost to me for ever! But you, even you, will I spurn in the dust, if you aid me not, heart and arm, to

defeat their villany, or to punish the murderers chase between their vengeance and mine. [Scizing him.] Nay, between their wrath and that of heaven!

Johan. I do, I do; only let go my throat, and I really

will tell you something that-

Peter. There, then, but no more fooling.

Johan. No, really—and now I can show you something that may perhaps lead to—but, now, whatever comes of it, there's a dear Peter, don't say I found it—say you did—you know you don't mind.

Peter. Found what! Explain and fear nothing-I

will dare all.

Johan. Why, then, you must know, after they had made me help to chain the poor creatures to the wall, and were forcing me out blindfolded, I stumbled in my fright, and fell upon something which I picked up and thrust into my waistcoat, hardly knowing what I did, I'm sure, at the time. It's a sort of a dagger, I think, for I've not dared to look at it since, and if it belongs to the people of the house—

Peter. Ha! let me see it—you have it here.

Johan. Yes, yes, safe enough. But you promise, now-honour bright.

Peter. I do, I do.

Johan. There it is, then.

[Pulling the hilt of Emerich's sword cautiously from out of his bosom.

Peter. [Snatching and examining it.] Ha! 'tis no dagger; 'tis the hilt of a broken sword—and here, see here is a coat of arms engraved on the pommel—oh, Providence! this may, indeed, lead to some discovery. I have a neighbour who has a book with all the arms of our nobility—wait me here one moment, Johan—yes, this may solve the mystery.

[Runs out, Leader The fell of the state of

Johan. The fellow almost stopped my wizzen. I shall get murdered! I know I shall! my wife will half kill me, if no bodyelse don't, for staying out all night. She'll never believe the story—nobody'll believe it—I don't believe it myself; I've been walking in my sleep, and it's all a dream. I'm sure it is, but that won't satisfy Madame Aspen—no, no, when once my Naggy takes a thing in her head, she's not so easily satisfied. My dear Mr. Aspen, she'll say, where the devil have you been to? Devil fetch me, if I know, my dear, says I.—You've been among the girls, you villain! she's sure to say

that. It's always the way, if a man has the misfortune to be particularly good-looking, his wife is sure to suspect him the moment his back's turned. You've been among the girls, Mr. Aspen!-No such luck, my dear, I shall say, if I dare, but that depends upon how I feel at the moment. Naggy's got such an intimidating way with her.

## Enter NAGGY and MADAME TELKY.

Naggy. [Overhearing him.] Has she, Mr. Aspen?you've a pretty fellow, a'n't you?

Johan. That's just what I was saying, my dear! but

I can't help it, you know

Naggy. Where have you been to, villain?

Johan. There now, didn't I say ?- I don't know, my love.

Naggy. You don't know, you base wretch! but I know —you've been among the girls, you monster.

Johan. There again, now—I knew she'd say so; and

I can't say "no such luck," for the life of me.

Naggy. What, you're dumbfounded, are you? you hav'nt a word to say for yourself.

Johan. Yes, indeed, Naggy. Naggy. What, you confess it? Johan. No, indeed, Naggy.

Naggy. Hah! dare you deny it? Go home, sir [Pushes him to c. |-go home this moment; I'll read you a lesson for this.

Widow T. Ay, ay, go home, Mr. Aspen; you ought

to be ashamed of yourself.

Johan. Hold your tongue, you old rattlesnake; I'm not married to you, thank my stars; if I were, egad! I must take to the bell-hanging line, as well as a locksmith; and I tell you what, I won't be snubbed by anybody but my own lawful wife; and, as to going home, Naggy, I can't, indeed-Peter'll kill me if I do. I've promised to wait for him here, and-

Naggy. Peter, indeed! I'll Peter him! Come home,

this instant, Mr. Aspen.

## Enter an Officer, with Four Soldiers, 1..

Officer. Aspen! that is our man.-You are our prisoner.

Johan. Prisoner! oh dear! what for?

Officer. Oh! a mere trifle—only murdering a kinsman of the Prince Palatine.

Johan. I never did!

Naggy & Widow T. Murdering!

Officer. Follow to the citadel-march!

Johan. O, Mr. Officer, I'm an innocent man! only ask Peter Stein!

Officer. He is your accomplice, and already in custody—march!

Johan. O dear! this comes of meddling.

[Crosses to Naggy.

Naggy. This comes of stopping out all night, and keeping such company.

Officer. How! do you know what company he was in

last night?

Naggy. Yes, sir; that is, Madame Telky here told

me that—

Widow T. Who! me [Aside.] O dear! that'll never do—I shall get myself into some trouble. [Aloud.] O dear, no, sir! I was only joking with Madame Aspen, indeed—I don't know anything about it, sir.

Officer. March those women to the guard-house sepa-

rately; mind, let them have no communication. Widow T. & Naggy. Who! us, sir? oh dear:

Officer. Away with them! [The Officer places the Widow next to the Soldier on L., Naggy follows 2nd Soldier, and Johan after 3d Soldier—Officer follows 4th Soldier—all exeunt, L.] March, fellow!

[Music .- They hurry out Johan, Aspen, Widow, and Naggy, L.

## SCENE II.—Ramparts of the Citadel.

Enter the Palatine, followed by Peter, with broken sword-hilt, and guarded by Two Soldiers, R.

Pal. Your story is incredible; but this broken sword, and the absence of my kinsman, alarm me for his fate. The arms are those of the House of Sarfo; and such a weapon I have seen in Count Emerich's possession. Every assistance shall be rendered you in your endeavours to prove the truth of your assertions; and four-and-twenty hours are given you for that purpose: but if, within that time, you cannot discover a clue to this mystery, and the count himself does not appear to banish these terrible suspicions, you and your comrade shall suffer as his murderers.

Peter. Then I must die, my lord; for my last hope, that this fragment would reveal the criminal, has deserted me: it proves to be the property of the victim; and to that victim's dreadful tomb what clue can I afford you! Placed blindfolded in a carriage which was whirled along at a fearful pace for nearly two hours, the spot at which it stopped must be at least three German miles from Buda, but in what direction I can form no guess: hurried back with the same speed, and the same precautions, though I removed the bandage the instant I felt myself free, no trace of my conductors was to be seen: had they sunk through the ground, or melted into the air, they could not have vanished more completely.

Pal. They were Hungarians?

Peter. They wore the garb and spoke the language, as did those upon the scene of the crime, and the hapless lady who shares the count's imprisonment. Oh! my good lord, mistrust me not: why should I frame this story? why have I thrown myself into your power, and placed in your hands the only evidence of my crime? Should I have chosen the eve of that day which united me to a lovely and innocent being for the commission of so black and bloody a deed? O Berka! Berka! where art thou? I have lost thee, too; and death, were it not coupled with ignominy, I should hail as a blessing.

# Enter an Officer, with two Soldiers, L.

Officer. My lord, the locksmith is in custody, and two women with whom he was conversing, and who prevaricated in their answers. A third woman, who states herself to be the wife of that prisoner, is sobbing without, and craving admittance to him.

Peter. Ah! my Berka! O, my lord, for pity's sake! Pul. Let her approach. I will interrogate the other prisoners separately. Assist in any search that man may propose; but shoot him if he attempts escaping.

[Exit Palatine, R.

## Enter BERKA, L.—Runs to Peter.

Peter. My wife-my love!

Berka. Oh, Peter! Peter! why do I see you here? why are you a prisoner? what crime are you accused of? I have heard such a terrible rumour.

Peter. I am accused of murder, Berka-of having as-

sassinated my benefactor—the man, too, whose life I had previously preserved at the peril of my own.

Berka. But you are not guilty, Peter?

Peter. No, thank Heaven! but I am destitute of all

proof of my innocence.

Berka. Not so, Peter: though you have acted basely by me, and though the confession must cover you with shame, you can bring proof of your innocence of murder.

Peter. What mean you?

Berka. Where did you pass last night, you faithless man? Peter. Alas! far, far from Buda! But where—oh! would I knew.

Berka. For shame—for shame! you know better, sir! and I know better. You may well start. I know well enough where you were, sir; and any other wife would let you be hanged, and glory in it—so they would, you

base man.

Peter. Berka, as I hope for mercy, I know not-and

you cannot know. Listen, I-

Berka. No, sir, I won't listen to your falsehoods, or your excuses.—I tell you, I do know where you were, sir—you were watched.

Peter. [Joyfully.] Can it be possible? O, speak!

Berka. Speak? Yes, I will speak!—Far from Buda, indeed!—You know well enough it was in the Old Town, scarcely out of sight of your own house.

Peter. What do I hear!

Berka. You see I know-Madame Telky has told me everything.

Peter. Madame Telky?

Berka. Yes, sir; the waiter at the inn where we supped saw you stop and speak to two strangers, and then muffle yourself up in a large cloak, and hurry away with them very mysteriously; and he was coming to tell me, when he met Madame Telky; so he told her;—and she, suspecting you were about no good, made him turn back with her, and follow you; and, from a distance, they saw you get into a carriage.

Peter. Hah! well, what then?

Berka. Why, she sent the boy home, with a caution not to tell any body, and then went home herself; but she couldn't sleep, kind soul! for thinking how ill you used me: and, about an hour afterwards, she heard the sound of wheels, and, going to the window, she saw, by the light of the moon, the same carriage stop before the

gate of the great house, nearly facing her, where that shameful old Turk, Abdallah, keeps half-a-dozen women.

[Bursting into tears.

Peter. She did! impossible! The time—the dresses—and yet disguises—and a circuitous road, to prevent suspicion—it must be so. Oh! Providence—

[Drops upon one knee.

Berka. Ah! well may you kneel, and ask pardon for

your perfidy!

Peter. Berka! dear Berka! [Springing up.] you have saved my life! you have saved my benefactor's! What, ho! officers! soldiers! To the Palatine—to the Palatine.

[Music.—Execut hastily, R.

SCENE III.—The Grotto, dark—the entrance in the centre walled up.—IRMA, R., and COUNT, L., discovered, chained to opposite sides, leaning despondingly against the rocks.

#### SCENA .- Recitative .- COUNT.

Darkness! impenetrable darkness! black As are our rayless fortunes—Night, thick night, More terrible than e'en the night of death, Which seems too long approaching! Irma! Hah! She answers not! Irma, beloved Irma!

Irma. [Faintly.] Emerich! Oh, that I Could look on thee and die.

Count. Vile chain, that holds me from my love! give way!
Oh, for the strength of the wild elephant,
To snap thee like a thread! It shakes! it yields!
Irma, I come to thee!

[With a violent effort, the stake is wrenched from the wall, the Count disengages himself, runs to Irma, and releases her.

Irma. My love, my husband!

Once more within thy arms! now, death, come quickly!

DUET .- Count and IRMA .- Both come forward.

Greedy monarch of the grave, Ever on the quest for prey, Here thy sable pinions wave, Hither wing thy rapid way!

Leave the happy one short hour;
Kindly bring the wretched rest;
Seek for once a bridal bower
Where thy coming will be bless'd.

#### Recitative—Count.

But is there now no hope? Must we die here
Of hunger? [Shouts at a distance, R. U. R
Hark! t. ere are sounds [They go up.
Like shouts and blows without. Oh, listen, listen!
[Music.—Shouts again, R. U. E.

Hark, hark! I say-

I hear them louder, now! louder, and louder!

[A shout is faintly heard without with knocking, R. U. E.

Ah! we are saved.

Count. They come! Oh, Providence!

Pardon our rash despair!

#### FINALE.

DUET-IRMA and COUNT.

Pardon the wild despair. That of thy merey doubted; And give as strength to bear This sudden flood of joy.

Count. Hark how they labour there. 1rma. And londer then they shouted. Count. Now the portal they destroy.

Irma. And see! the blessed beams of day Through the crumbling wall appear.

And hark! and hark! the well-known lay.

Count.

Peter and Chorus without, R. U. E.

Courage still, boys,-Come what will, boys, Honest hearts have naught to fear.

[A breach is made in the wall, in the centre, which falls in ruins.

Enter Peter Stein, hastily, through the breach, followed by Labourers—the iron door, also, is forced, and Johan Aspen enters, with the Palatine and Soldiers, WIDOW TELKY, BERKA, NAGGY, &c .- The stage light.

Peter. Alive, alive! Hurrah! hurrah!

Count. [Embracing Peter and Palatine.] Friend and kinsman, to my heart!

Widow T., Berka, and Naggy. It's all through me.

All. Hah! ha, ha, ha!

Irma.

Irma. Words can ne'er our joy impart.

All. Hence away, And close the day

With mirth and music and good cheer.

Principals. Soft awhile,

For fortune's smile

May not be reflected here. On these friends

To the public.

Our fate depends l But, if the wish to please appear—

Why— Courage still, boys,

Count. Come what will, boys,

Honest hearts have naught to fear.

All. Courage still, boys, &c.

[The curtain falls.

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